



# Promoting Renewable Energy Use in Uganda (ProREU)

## Summary

Country	Uganda
Implementer	URBIS Foundation
Target groups	Young adults
Duration	10/2020 – 08/2022
Type of energy use	Electrification

## Challenge

Energy supply in rural Uganda is still based on charcoal, firewood and paraffin. Only 7% of rural areas are electrified. A good alternative are solar energy solutions. On a national scale, households and institutions have installed solar systems to meet their energy needs, but most of the solar users have no access to after-sales services (repair and maintenance) in the rural communities, leading to frequent system malfunction. As a result of this unreliability, many inhabitants do not trust renewable energy solutions and are reluctant to invest.

## Impact Logic

ProREU cooperates with the Ugandan Technical College (UTC) in Lira for the training and uses an existing curriculum of the Nakawa Vocational Training Institute (NVTI) for the courses. The focus of the five-weeks training course is on the topics of installation, maintenance and repair of solar systems. It also includes an internship in several solar companies. 50 young people between 18 and 30 years of age are selected for the courses. The training is acknowledged by the Directorate of Industrial Training in Uganda and is part of UTCs regular curriculum going forward. The trained Solar Extension Agents (SEA) form a network responsible for installing, maintaining and mapping solar systems in the region as well as giving advice to clients and

providing information on suppliers and the solar products that fit to the client's needs. Furthermore, an open-source map of functional and non-functional solar energy systems in public institutions and private households in the Lango Sub Region is created to provide information and statistical data for investments and market potential. The trained SEAs deepen their knowledge by supporting the mapping activities as mapping assistants and can simultaneously create a revenue by offering their services. The map will consequently function as a visualisation of the maintenance and repair service demand which creates a justification for policy alterations in local governments and private companies.

## Innovative Project Elements

The project is a pioneering activity in Uganda which is carried out for the first time to create new knowledge about the solar system coverage in Northern Uganda. In addition, the practical courses composed of five weeks of training and four weeks of internship provide an innovative angle of sustainable knowledge transfer and education. The trained technicians provide sustainable technical skills because they live within the rural communities. Furthermore, they also provide strong links between private solar companies and the rural consumers. By training local technicians to install and maintain solar systems, the project is ensuring the sustainable use of existing and future solar systems in the region.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

[www.gruene-buergerenergie.org](http://www.gruene-buergerenergie.org)

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Address  
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1–5, 65760 Eschborn  
T +49 6196 79-0

Design  
Atelier Löwentor, Darmstadt, [www.loewentor.de](http://www.loewentor.de)

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